

APPENDIX 11B

Amherst park use committee holds first meeting

By **SCOTT MERZBACH**, Staff Writer
Saturday, May 10, 2008

AMHERST - Planning Kendrick Park's future uses, from providing recreation such as ice skating to promoting local agriculture with an open-air public market, will be in the hands of a committee that will hold its first meeting Thursday.

Town Manager Larry Shaffer said he wants all ideas and functions for the 3-acre park at the north end of downtown to go through the filter of this 11-member committee and its four subcommittees, with a formal report anticipated by the end of the calendar year.

Since the town took ownership of the property in October 2006, Kendrick Park has seen the removal of the last home standing on it, the construction of an ice skating rink by the Department of Public Works this past winter and what could be last of the annual Boy Scouts' Christmas tree sale.

More changes are likely to take place in the coming months and years.

Shaffer told the Boy Scouts after their 2007 sale, during which they agreed to be assessed a \$1 per tree fee for use of the site, that they should find another place to sell their trees. Yet Shaffer notes that this doesn't mean that the Boy Scouts are permanently out of the picture for using the park where they have sold trees since the 1950s. Instead, Shaffer said there needs to be a process in which the committee determines the best use for the property, and finds out whether any other residents may wish to sell trees.

"What I'm trying to get at is that there is no protected class at Kendrick," Shaffer said.

And even though Shaffer has promoted the idea of a public market with the possible construction of a building to house it, the committee will make these decisions. "I want that to be discussed at the committee level," Shaffer said.

Shaffer is inviting members of the committee to visit Keene, N.H., on May 31 for a tour of Ashuelot River Park, coinciding with a tour of the city by the Amherst Shade Tree Committee to see how that city has approached the planting of trees along public ways.

"I want people to get a sense of what's possible, and see how people in other communities have handled the same issues," Shaffer said.

Ashuelot River Park is similar in that the park is near commercial development and includes both a gazebo and a bridge.

The four subcommittees will focus on recreation, history and aesthetics, nature and landscape, and the public market, and be staffed by Planning Director Jonathan Tucker, Conservation Director David Ziomek, Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Director Linda Chalfant and Tree Warden Alan Snow.

The formal role for the committee is to "study the recreational, scenic, historic and aesthetic uses of Kendrick Park" and "propose to the town manager recommendations consistent with the charge and the conditions of the Kendrick Park Trust."

The members of the main committee include Peter Blier, Patty Brandts, Harry Brooks, William Hutchinson, Christina Mata, Margaret Roberts, Marilyn Rodzwell, Liz Rosenberg, Susan Sheldon and Jeffery Tenenbaum.

The committee will meet the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

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Kendrick Park

Kendrick Park is located on the north side of town on the west side of N. Pleasant Street, flanked by Copy Cat Print Shop toward the east and Silverscape Designs toward the west. I mention this because though I have driven by this parcel of land for many years, I haven't REALLY taken much notice. Until recently.

In case, you are *still* wondering where Kendrick Park is, it is the site where the Boy Scouts have been selling Christmas trees for many, many years.

Four-score and seven years ago . . . Ok, let's just say many years ago, there were a handful of homes on that parcel of land. In 1930 the Kendrick Trust fund was formed with a codicil that once all of homes were purchased, the land would be preserved in perpetuity as a public park. Back in the fall, the last house was purchased and moved and thus this 4-acre parcel of land is now a blank canvas awaiting her coat of paint.

In order to "paint that canvas," we need to first decide what "colors" to use.

Out of this was born the Kendrick Park Committee. The Committee's charge is as follows:

The committee shall study the recreation, scenic, historic and esthetic uses of Kendrick Park and shall propose to the Town Manager recommendations consistent with the charge and the conditions of the Kendrick Park Trust.

Some of the ideas that are being discussed are:

1. Open space, rustic and natural; native trees, grasses, little grooming other than lawn mowing and raking.
2. Groomed park space (Sweetzer look) flowering bushes, ornamental trees; benches, walking paths, water garden; fountain, public sculpture.
3. Some recreation – ice skating; bocce courts, outdoor chess tables, exercise classes; dog park section, fenced and maintained; volleyball courts.
4. Active Park – Entertainment shell – band concerts; summer events; summer theatre; gazebo; carousel, public market (enclosed), exhibits; park management for event organizations and management, visitor center, comfort station.

These are just some of the many possibilities of how to use this great piece of land. One of the reasons, as I see it, that this land is so important, is that it can be the other "bookend" (the other one being the Town Common) and where the north part of town starts.

The Kendrick Park Committee meetings are public and meeting times can be found by going to www.amherstma.gov.

We invite you to attend the meetings so that you can share in the process!

Until next month . . .

Patty

Kendrick Park loaded with bulbs this month

By **SCOTT MERZBACH**
Staff Writer

Kendrick Park will be filled with the vibrant colors of daffodils next spring thanks to the efforts of students at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

The students recently spent a day planting 900 donated bulbs of three different varieties at the southernmost tip of the park.

"The idea of where they were planted is to give the most visual impact," organizer Dolly Jolly said.

AROUND TOWN



Dolly Jolly, a member of the 250th Anniversary Committee, which organized the daffodil planting, said the plants are being put in where they will be seen by the public.

"The idea of where they were planted is to give the most visual impact," Jolly said.

The students arrived on the morning of Oct. 24 and spread several yards of compost from the Natural Resources Department at the University of Massachusetts. These students also removed burning bush, an invasive shrub, from the site.

Then, a dozen Stockbridge students in Mike Davidsohn's landscaping contracting class, as well as members of the Alpha Tau Gamma fraternity, returned in the afternoon to put in the bulbs.

"It all came together and it all ended up very nicely," Jolly said.

Mulch was donated to protect the beds from being trampled on.

About 10,000 daffodil bulbs are being planted at all four commons in Amherst and at its two downtown parks. Another 12,000 bulbs are being sold to homeowners for planting on their properties.

Teenagers offer ideas for Kendrick Park

By SCOTT MERZBACH
Staff Writer

AMHERST — Commemorative plaques recognizing Amherst's history. Swingsets for children and teenagers to play on. Tables that could serve as permanent or rotating artwork. A statue of actress and former Amherst Regional High School student Uma Thurman.

Those were among the dozens of suggestions teenagers brought forward for the future use of Kendrick Park at a recent idea-gathering session held by the Kendrick Park Committee at Bertucci's restaurant.

Christina Mata, a member of the committee who helped organize the "Hot Pizza for Hot Ideas" event, said students who came for a slice of pizza took interest in providing wonderful, thoughtful ideas for what Kendrick Park could become.

"It's such an exciting opportunity for Amherst to have this space, and the teens seemed excited to give their responses," Mata said.

While the committee had previously reached out to the business community, the residents living in the neighborhoods surrounding the park and the community at large, this marked the

first time it targeted Amherst's younger residents for ways to use the 3.3-acre site.

For many residents, the park has probably best been known as the site of the annual Christmas tree sale by the Boy Scouts. Last winter, after the last home on the land had been moved, and the town formally acquired the property, it featured an ice-skating rink. But its future is expected to be decided by recommendations the committee makes in the coming months.

Mata said her son, Jackson, sent out text messages to his fellow students and 83 came to fill out information sheets, providing written ideas in categories that will help determine the park's future recreational uses, its aesthetics and landscape and its overall look and feel.

Many of the high schoolers mentioned statues or monuments, especially to recognize poets Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost. Others said there should be space for sports and pickup games and tai chi and yoga. Tennis courts, a miniature golf course and a skateboard park were other popular suggestions.

Kendrick Park could also be the site of festivals.

But students also noted the

need for tranquility, a welcoming environment and a place they could do homework. Clean and safe bathrooms were recommended by some students.

Committee member Hope Crolius, who came up with the name of the meet and greet, said it is important to reach out to high school students. She noted that they are frequent users of the park in its existing state, whether waiting for buses there, reading books under a tree or holding an impromptu athletic contest.

"They're really the current stakeholders," Crolius said.

Bertucci's manager Cindy Kanaley ensured there would be plenty of pizza for the students on the restaurant's patio, which overlooks the park. The Kendrick Park Committee appropriated \$300 from the \$50,000 or so remaining in the trust to purchase the pizzas.

The money in this trust, established by George Kendrick in 1930, is expected to be used for startup and design costs and special projects.

Mata is now compiling raw data into a spreadsheet for the committee's next meeting. This data will include comments made by people at all the information-gathering sessions.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hadley Garden Center Donates Trees and Shrubs to the Town of Amherst

AMHERST, MA -- November 26, 2008 The Hadley Garden Center, 285 Russell Street, Hadley, has donated a significant number of trees and shrubs to be used along public ways and in Kendrick Park, the new urban park between North Pleasant and East Pleasant streets in Amherst. The total value of this gift is \$4,122.00. The trees and shrubs will be wintered by Alan Snow, the Town's Tree Warden, and then planted in the Spring.

"On behalf of the Town of Amherst, I would like to thank and congratulate the Hadley Garden Center for its kind gift. By its generosity, the Hadley Garden Center makes Amherst a more beautiful place to live," Amherst Town Manager Larry Shaffer said. "The Hadley Garden Center's contribution represents its commitment to ensuring that Amherst stays a beautiful place. I know I speak for the Kendrick Park Committee and the Public Shade Tree Committee in thanking and congratulating the Hadley Garden Center for its very generous gift to the Town of Amherst."

For Kendrick Park, the Hadley Garden Center donated three (3) Shadblow Serviceberry, one (1) Weeping Larch, three (3) Witch Hazel, one (1) Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, and one (1) Japanese Maple.

For the public way, the Hadley Garden Center donated to the Public Shade Tree Fund one (1) Red Oak, one (1) Japanese Snowbell, two (2) Stewartia, two (2) Paperbark Maple, two (2) Yoshino Cherry, three (3) Black Gums, and three (3) Sugar Maple.

Questions about this Press Release may be answered by:

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Alan Snow, Tree Warden, Town of Amherst, 413-253-0411
Peggy Roberts, Chair, Kendrick Park Committee, 413-549-1575
Hope Crollus, Chair, Public Shade Tree Committee, 413-461-6832

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Landscape Architecture Students from UMass Present Designs for Kendrick Park

AMHERST, MA – December 3, 2008 The public is invited to presentations of designs for Kendrick Park by students of the University of Massachusetts Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning on Thursday, December 11, 2008, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Town Room, Town Hall.

Students will present an analysis of the site along with scale models illustrating their conceptual designs. A discussion period will follow with comments and suggestions from the audience..

The students have been studying the Park and developing designs as part of a Sophomore Design Studio, taught by Professor Frank Slegers. They have met with members of the Kendrick Park Committee to gather information on the needs and desires of the Amherst community with respect to future uses of the Park.

The Kendrick Park Committee has been meeting for the past year to gather citizen input, come up with ideas for uses of the park land and develop guidelines to aid the Town Manager in the management of the park land.

The Town of Amherst recently took possession of the Park after the last house was relocated to a site on Gray Street, earlier this year.

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January 2009

Students' designs for Kendrick Park at wunderarts gallery

Welcome to an exhibit of models illustrating designs for Kendrick Park, prepared by students of the University of Massachusetts Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning.

The students studied the Park and developed these designs as part of a Sophomore Design Studio, taught by Professor Frank Slegers and Visiting Lecturer, Maggie Leonard. The students met with members of the Kendrick Park Committee to gather information on the needs and desires of the Amherst community with respect to future uses of the Park.

The Kendrick Park Committee has been meeting for the past year to gather citizen input, come up with ideas for uses of the park land and develop guidelines to aid the Town Manager in the management of the park land.

The Town of Amherst recently took possession of the Park after the last house was relocated to a site on Gray Street, earlier this year.

If you have comments on these designs you may contact:

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